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I taught English in Madagascar in Aug of 2000 and fielded many questions about the United States. One of the oddest series of questions that were asked pertained to whether Bill Gates was going to prison for what he had done at Microsoft.

It took awhile to explain the difference between civil and criminal law and I did my best.

To the people in Madagascar , if they know of the situation with Microsoft, the general belief is that he must be a criminal.

While this may not be of great moment to the justice department I believe that it is unfortunate that the several state justice departments wish to prosecute one of America's great entrepreneurs and that the US Justice Dept. took up the case in the first place. It makes the US look vindictive and small.

Bill Gates is not a hero like we have seen in the last few months but he is someone whose influence has been of benefit for our country.

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